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Identical letters dated 24 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

I write further to my previous letters regarding the armed terrorist groups' premeditated and deliberate crimes against the Government and people of Syria. On 22 May 2014, the groups perpetrated another horrific atrocity against civilians in Dar'a city. They shelled a popular residential area of the city, which was crowded with civilians who had gathered to express loyalty to their homeland and reject terrorism. The attack killed 39 civilians, including women and children. Some 205 others were wounded, 14 of them seriously.

This appalling crime is one of a series of deliberate attacks against civilians carried out by armed terrorist groups with support from States in the region and outside it. The groups have directly targeted innocent civilians across the country on a daily basis by bombing and indiscriminately shelling homes, places of work and educational, medical and religious institutions. Their purpose is to intimidate civilians and prevent them from living a normal life.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to exercise its constitutional duty to protect its citizens from the crimes of armed terrorist groups. At the same time, it continues to strive earnestly to reach a political solution and national reconciliation through its national strategy to end the massacres and restore security and stability in Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to draw your attention to the details of this latest atrocity, which is only one of many that have been perpetrated by armed terrorist groups in every governorate of Syria. In so doing, it wishes to remind those parties that hold forth about human rights, and the purported advocates of counter-terrorism, of their responsibility to put an end to their lethal or non-lethal support for the terrorist groups. That includes the support provided by

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such countries as France, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Syria requests the Security Council to clearly and forcefully condemn these acts of terrorism and the conduct of those States which, in addition to covering for the terrorists in an abject manner, have in some cases formed open alliances with them in order to plan further crimes, as in the case of a recent draft Security Council resolution that was not adopted because it reeked of hypocrisy. By remaining silent and failing to condemn such acts of terrorism, the Security Council will encourage the terrorists and their State sponsors to continue their campaign of killing and destruction against Syria and its people. That course of action will entrench the Council's double standards on counter-terrorism and encourage the groups to propagate terrorism in other parts of the world.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative